GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1122
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
PILFERAGE OF FOODGRAINS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Hindustan (Hindi) dated September 1, 2000 under the caption `Prati Varsh Sade Teen Hazar Crore Ka Anaj Chori`;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken or propose to be take any concrete measures to check the pilferage of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts reported therein are correct.

(c) &(d) : Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations . The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage andtransportation of the PDS commodities upto the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT AdministrationsState Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commoditiesin a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati RajInstitutions (PRIs) etc. in implementation of PDS.They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Government of India have set up Public Grievances` Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department`s functioning including the PDS. The Public Grievances` Redressal Cell has been provided with independent telephone, fax and e-mail facilities in addition to a facilitation counter to receive the public complaints. In order to attend to public complaints on priority, the Department sends officers as members of flying squad for conducting immediate and prompt enquiry whenever the need for it is felt. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS.